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of their being the produce of bean stalks, and of the advantages which might be derived by the nation from encouraging the collection of hemp of this nature, and of its utility in the arts; of these letters the most remarkable are from Messrs. Houné and Alford, shoemakers, on the great strength of bean hemp, tried by them in sewing leather, and of the decided preference which they gave it to other hemp; and a letter from Mr. Davy to certify that he has tried the chemical agents in whitening bean hemp; that it bears bleaching very well, and that as to chemical properties, it differs very little from common hemp.

Mr. Davy also observes very properly, that the question, whether bean hemp is likely to be of useful application, is a mechanical one, and must be solved by experiments on its comparative strength.

The silver medal of the society for the encouragement of arts, &c. was given to Mr. Hall for this communication.

Remarks.... We think till the mechanical experiments are made upon bean hemp, which Mr. Davy mentions, it would be premature to decide on its superiority to other kinds of hemp, and that Mr. Hall in doing so has not had sufficient foundation for his opinions. Nevertheless there can be little doubt, that it would answer nearly as well as other hemp for most purposes, and fully as well for making paper. The great impediment to its use will proceed from the expense of collecting it: only two hundred weight of it can be got from an acre of beans; which supposing that the straw amounts to but four tons per acre, will require forty times its weight of the bean straw, to be peeled and picked to produce it, besides other manual operations which it must undergo. Mr. Hall seems to be aware of the great proportion of labour it will require in its manipulation more than other hemp; but by a strange error of reasoning, he wishes to infer that this is rather a benefit, on account of the additional employment it will give to women and children, not

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considering that mere labour in itself can be no advantage, and that it is worse than useless if its produce does not pay for the maintenance of those employed during the time consumed in it.

But supposing that at the present high price of hemp bean hemp would pay for its collection, it is a question whether it would be right to turn the labour of the country into a channel that could not be permanent, and whether it is not better to increase the quantity of common hemp raised at home, in the manufacture of which no loss could be sustained by a waste of labour.

On the quantity of labour, required to finish a given weight of bean hemp, experiments should be made, as well as on the points mentioned by Mr. Davy, before any decision should be made as to the advantage of its introduction; we are however induced to conjecture that the vast proportion of bean straw to the hemp produced, will remain an objection to its use, nearly insuperable.

Description of a new Cupping Instrument invented by Robert Healy esq. M.B. of Dublin.

This instrument consists of two parts, one is a cupping glass, made in the usual way with a short connecting pipe at its top, tapped with a screw of a coarse thread, by which it may be connected with the other part; which is a vessel (for producing a vacuum) of tin, or thin sheet copper, containing about half a pint, with a stop cock soldered to it, made to screw to the pipe of the cupping glass, and of which about a quarter or half an inch should extend within the vessel, for a purpose that will be mentioned.

The instrument is to be used in the following manner. The hollow vessel is to be unscrewed from the cupping glass, and a little air is to be drawn from it by the mouth, and the cock is then to be instantly turned to prevent the external air from rushing in. Ether or spirit of wine is to be placed in a glass, and the mouth of the stop cock being inverted into it, the cock is to be turned, and about a
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drachm of the liquor is to be let to ascend. The hollow vessel is next to be heated to convert the liquor into vapour, and as soon as the vapour has filled it, the stop cock must be closed, and it must then be immersed in a vessel of cold water.—A vacuum is thus produced by the condensation of the vapour, in proportion to the size of the vessel, in a few minutes. The cupping glass is then to be screwed to the stop cock, and placed over the wound made by a lancet or leech: and by adjusting the suction by the stop cock, a gradual or sudden flow of blood may be produced. If the hollow vessel be of large dimensions, and the patient complain of the suction, the cock must be closed and the blood be either permitted to flow into the glass, or one turn of the screw must be moved backwards, to admit the air to pass through the thread of the screw into the glass. The reason of extending the stop cock so far within the hollow vessel, is to prevent the liquid in the ball from passing into the cupping glass, when the stop cock is opened.

On the great effect of Magnesia on calculary concretions, ascertained by Mr. Brande, at the suggestion of Mr. Hatchet.

At a meeting of the Royal Society, held on the 1st and 8th of February, a paper on uric acid, by Mr. Brande, communicated by the society for improving animal chemistry, was read. The author related the effects of the alkalis, and lime on the uric acid, and phosphats, in patients labouring under the influence of calculi, but in none of the cases which he stated were they successful in giving relief or curing disease.

Magnesia however had the desired effect, and brought off in the urine great quantities of uric acid and phosphats, in the form of triple salts. The discharge of these salts, after taking small doses of magnesia, was so copious, that the patients were radically or effectually cured in a few weeks.

The suggestion to use magnesia, was made by Mr. Hatchet (a gentleman well known for his great chemical abilities) who declared that of

all substances it was the most likely to act on the uric acid, and experience has thus confirmed his conclusions, in the strongest manner.

Remark... This discovery is an additional proof to the many others, which have occurred of late years, of the advantage of chemical researches, and is highly creditable both to Mr. Hatchet who suggested, and to Mr. Brande who proved the fact. It is highly probable that the same medicine may be useful in the gout also, as this complaint is known to proceed from concretions of a similar nature to those which it removes.

The importance of the discovery, and the relief it may afford to numerous sufferers under the diseases which it may relieve, renders it a duty to make it as public as possible. We do not pretend to meddle with the medical department in general, but when an application of chemistry occurs so likely to be beneficial, it should not be rejected from our pages, because it related to a peculiar line of science.

The discovery appears of the greater authenticity from its receiving in some degree the sanction of the Royal Society, to whom it would not have been communicated, it is probable, if it had not received sufficient proof to satisfy Mr. Brande of its efficacy. The name of Mr. Hatchet also, with whom it originated, adds great weight to its probable value.

In the countries where poor wines, cyder, and stale malt liquors are the common beverage of the people, the complaints above-mentioned are much more common than in those where spirits and water are more used, as is the case in Ireland and Scotland. But the great danger of using this latter drink, is, that it will be made stronger than what is fit, when its constant use will occasion diseases equally distressing, though of a different nature. And although these countries are more free from the complaints alluded to than the others, yet the number of sufferers are sufficiently great to render the discovery of the utmost importance here as well as elsewhere.